

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TERRELL

Terrell County Commissioners Court Emergency Session
Minutes of March 2, 2022

A quorum of the Terrell County Commissioners Court convened in emergency session on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 4:20 p.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom of the Terrell County Courthouse, 105 Hackberry St., Sanderson, Texas.

1.- Call to Order. This public meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by the Hon. Dale Carruthers, Terrell County Judge, and the following members of this Court were present:

Hon. Adam Johnson, Commissioner Pct. 1

Hon. Arnulfo Serna, Commissioner Pct. 3

Hon. Heather Gully, Commissioner Pct. 4

The Hon. Mike Sanchez, Commissioner Pct. 2 was absent from this meeting. Other public officials and appointees of this county included:

Hon. Rebecca Luevano, County Treasurer

Martha Allen, Interim County Clerk

Joe Juarez, Chief Deputy Sheriff

John Trevino, Deputy Sheriff

Hon. Ken Bellah, County Attorney (via remote access)

The Presiding Officer of this Court called for an emergency session due to the sudden and untimely demise of the Hon. Santiago Gonzalez, Terrell County Sheriff and Tax Assessor/Collector. She offered the Court's condolences to the Sheriff's family and department staff. In the interest of public safety and protection, the County Judge reached out to State Troopers and Border Patrol Agents to assist the Terrell County Sheriff's Department. These Officers and Agents have diligently and compassionately responded to this call.

2.- Invocation and Pledges. Rev. Les Chandler gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

3.- Discuss and take action on appointment of Interim Sheriff. The Court proceeded to consider the Appointment of the Chief Deputy Joe Juarez as Interim Sheriff, the fulfilment of the duties of the office, his regular duties, salary and access to the department's bank accounts.

Deputy Juarez offered his sympathies to the sheriff's family and stated that this sudden loss has been difficult for the staff. If appointed, he will fulfill the duties of this office and will continue to move forward with any pending projects.

The Honorable Ken Bellah, County Attorney, recommended the appointment take effect immediately and the appointed officer take the oath of office and post fidelity bond. This appointment is subject to the statutory provisions for appointed officers to fill a vacancy.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to appoint Chief Deputy Joe Juarez as Interim Sheriff for the sheriff's department and to fulfill the sheriff's duties and his regular duties, due to the death of Sheriff Santiago Gonzalez the elected officer. Mr. Juarez will continue to retain his existing salary. Furthermore, he is authorized to access the forfeiture account (#9003736), the comptrollers' education account(#303345) and the tax assessor-collector's account (#5003413). Motion seconded by Commissioner Serna. Motion carried 4-0. IT IS THEREFORE SO ORDERED BY THE COURT.

4.- Consider authorizing the County Judge to execute an order regarding a settlement offer in the matter of Texas opioid multi-district litigation in the matter of County of Terrell, State of Texas v. Purdue Pharma, Inc., et al MDL PRETRIAL CAUSE NO. 2018-63587, in the 152nd District Court of Harris County, Texas.

The Hon. Ken Bellah, County Attorney, apprised the Court about the nature of this litigation, which commenced several years ago by joining a class action suit against manufacturers and distributors of opioid drugs. The following defendants have entered into a settlement agreement approved in State Court: Endo, Janssen and Teva. The proposed settlement agreement must be executed no later than March 10, 2022, or the county will forfeit the settlement amount of approximately \$8,900.

Ms. Shelly Sanford, Special Counsel for the Plaintiffs joined the meeting via remote access/ Zoom. She gave the Court an overview of the allegations made against defendants that engaged in illegal and or/ reckless marketing and distribution of opioid drugs, resulting in addictive use and/or leading to overdose. The purpose of these lawsuits is to repay counties for costs in substance abuse cases and for programs to deter the use of these drugs. Counsel Stanford informed that these suits were initiated by counties in the State of Texas through the Office of the Attorney General. Approximately 15% of the settlement proceeds goes to counties; 70% to opioid abatement treatments and 15% to the State for investigation and litigation related costs.

Counsel Stanford informed that the amount of the allocation to counties is based on various factors such as opioid related deaths, opioids brought into counties and international border drug trafficking. Attorneys fees are taxed against the Defendants and Terrell County will not have to bear this cost.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to authorize the County Judge to execute Order Authorizing Approval of Proposed Janssen Texas Statewide Settlement Agreement and Order Authorizing Approval of Proposed Texas Statewide Opioid Settlement Agreement, on behalf of Terrell County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Serna. Motion passed 3-0 with 1 abstention by Commissioner Gully. IT IS THEREFORE SO ORDERED BY THE COURT. Copies of these orders are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

5,-Less than 72 hours notice was given for this meeting. The Court posted 2hr notice due to nature of the emergency in the Sheriff's Department.

6.-Adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Serna and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried 4-0

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha Allen", is written over a horizontal line.

Martha Allen, Interim Clerk

Raeline Thompson

Terrell County Clerk

Ex-officio Clerk, Terrell County Commissioners Court

ORDER APPROVING MINUTES OF EMERGENCY SESSION

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY SESSION HELD ON THE 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2022, HAVE BEEN READ AND EXAMINED AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY APPROVED AS

PRESENTED

AMENDED

IN OPEN COURT THIS 14 DAY OF MARCH 2022.



PRESIDING OFFICER

